

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30th June 2022

Present: Councillor C Maudling (Chairman); Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor J Carr; Councillor G Dinsdale; Councillor R Gill; Councillor C Hayes; Councillor J Rayson; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor G Stevens

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Office

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Member of the Public

Member of the Press

2037/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor B O’Kane	On Holiday
Councillor C Walmsley	Family Commitment

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

2038/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 5 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor Roberts declared an interest that he was a member of CCC

2039/22 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 26th May 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 26th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 26th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

2040/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation

2041/22 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received from CBC and shown at Appendix 1.

Councillor Rayson referred to the Harras Moor Planning Applications and said she had just the usual concerns which had previously been mentioned – infrastructure etc.

Councillor Roberts referred to the Harras Moor Planning Applications and said he had given the Clerk and Deputy Clerk some guidance notes on this but that he had concerns about:-

- The infrastructure
 - The local plan
 - The lack of it
 - Access
 - The scale in relation to the curtilage of the land
 - Drainage
- i. Councillor Gill said that as a matter of record it was important that as a Council they agreed with the views of the local Councillors and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Stevens that the Clerk takes up this matter with CBC on behalf of the local Councillors and submits the above comments and notes as the Council's representations to the Harras Moor Planning Applications to CBC. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Clerk takes up this matter with CBC on behalf of the local Councillors and submits the above comments and notes as the Council's representations to the Harras Moor Planning Applications to CBC.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that CBC be informed that following consideration of the remainder of the planning applications on Appendix 1 there were no further representations.

RESOLVED – That CBC be informed that following consideration of the remainder of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1, there were no further representations.

2042/22 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there was 1 extra invoice to consider namely:

Cumbria Media	£148.00 for uploading to website
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It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Carr that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 1 additional invoice listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 1 additional invoice listed above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

2043/22 Christmas Lights

The Council considered a report on a quote of £24,400.00 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred supplier for the erection, maintenance, dismantling and repair of the Council's Christmas Lights and considered whether to suspend Financial Regulations in order to accept the quote and also the reasons for suspension and the risks.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling (i) that the Council makes a Resolution to suspend Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas Lights and having made the Resolution (ii) that in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for suspension and also the assessment of the risks stated in the Report be accepted and approved and that CCC undertake the work at a cost of £24,400.00

RESOLVED – That (i) the Council makes a Resolution to suspend Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas Lights and having made the Resolution
(ii) that in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for suspension and also the assessment of the risks stated in the Report be accepted and approved and that CCC undertake the work at a cost of £24,400.00

2044/22 Winter Bedding Plants

The Council considered a report on a quote of £3,162.54 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred supplier for winter bedding plants and considered whether to suspend Financial Regulations in order to accept the quote and also the reasons for suspension and the assessment of the risks.

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor G Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Council makes a Resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the winter bedding plants to be purchased from the preferred supplier. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Council makes a Resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 and the winter bedding plants be purchased from the preferred Supplier

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that having made the Resolution in (i) above that the reasons for the suspension and also the assessment of the risks contained in the Report be accepted and approved and that the quote of £3,162.54 plus VAT be accepted.

RESOLVED – That the reasons for the suspension and also the assessment of the risks contained in the Report be accepted and approved and that the quote of £3,162.54 plus VAT be accepted.

2045/22 Concerns about the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by GP Practices

Councillor Gill gave a verbal report on concerns about the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by GP Practices. He made the following points:-

- He was concerned that every day more and more he was seeing people having problems about being able to see their GP
- He said that he had had problems and that the Government was pressurising GPs to do more
- He said at his GPs Receptionist Staff were being trained to deal with people's ailments but that he didn't think that people had much confidence in this and that this was not only over this town but over the country
- That in his practice there were the same number of doctors there now after covid but that things didn't seem to have opened up again
- He said people were ringing up at 8.00 o'clock in the morning, sometimes sitting for 20-25 minutes on the telephone only to find that all the appointments have gone
- That this problem was all over the Town and the country but that he was really concerned about the level of service being provided by all the GP practices in Whitehaven

- Councillor Gill thought that the Council should be trying to do something even if it turned out to be unsuccessful
- That he didn't know what the answer was but that the least the Council could do was to write to the Cumbria County Health and Scrutiny Committee.
- He said what he could not understand was that there were the same number of doctors at the surgeries that there were before covid and that when he went into the doctor's surgery when he eventually got an appointment there was no one in there
- He said people were going to Cuedoc or A and E at West Cumberland Hospital and it was heaving because people couldn't see their doctor and that this was putting the NHS at the hospital under pressure.

Councillor Stevens asked for a rider to be put to any proposal to the CCC Health and Scrutiny Committee that dental services in Whitehaven be included. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Council write to the CCC Health and Scrutiny Committee to ask them to have an investigation into the provision of doctors and dentists in Whitehaven. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council write to the CCC Health and Scrutiny Committee to ask them to have an investigation into the provision of doctors and dentists in Whitehaven.

2046/22

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Stevens said that she had been trying to track down who owned the broken bench at Sandwith. Councillor Gill said it was owned by St Bees School
- ii. Councillor Rayson referred to the grass at the top of St Benedicts going to the Golf Club and said it was a really bad junction and the grass was high on both sides. Councillor G Dinsdale said it was on the CCC cutting regime
- iii. Councillor Carr said that Mirehouse Community Centre had a play park behind it and Councillor Walmsley had said that they were going to be getting a new play park provided by Well Whitehaven. He said the grass was overgrown and Councillor Walmsley had contacted several people trying to get it cut down to make it useable through the summer.
- iv. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to the grass cutting at Bransty which the CCC said they would do and said he had received a text from the resident to say it still had not been done. The Clerk said she would send a reminder to CCC.
- v. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to road surfacing issues and lack of lighting at Maple Grove at Valley park. The Clerk said that she had contacted Brian Holmes the CCC Lighting Manager. He said that he had done a survey of all the lighting columns in Copeland and as a result some had been found to be unsafe and had been condemned and removed and

the street light on Maple Grove was one of them. He said the new lighting columns had been ordered but there was a 12 week lead in time and CCC was in the process of obtaining tenders from outside contractors to install the new lighting columns. As regards the road surfacing problems the Clerk said she had sent an email to Craig McCarron at CCC and asked when this would be carried out.

vi. Councillor E Dinsdale said that the Magnox reprocessing comes to an end on 29th July 2022 which follows on from the Thorpe reprocessing which ended on 20/08/19 and that we must be the most reliant area on the nuclear industry in the whole of the UK. He made the following points

- With the direction that the nuclear industry is going a lot of jobs were based around these 2 main streams of reprocessing and asked should the Council not have someone representing the 23,000 people that it represents with all the stakeholders involved who could then feed back to the Council because he was concerned for the town around the direction that the nuclear industry was going
- Everything in the Town was underpinned by the nuclear industry and ultimately the Council needed to know what the strategy is
- What is going to be there to mitigate the thousands of jobs that are going to go within the next so many years
- What impact is that going to have on the people that the Council represents
- We need somebody to represent the Council and to lead on these key points of strategy and delivery
- There were quarterly stakeholder meetings being held at Cleator Moor Civic Hall
- Meetings were taking place at BEC
- There was a Strategic Nuclear Energy Board

Councillor Gill said we should write and ask for a place on that Board so that the people of Whitehaven knew what was going on. The Clerk said she would write to the Board to ask for a representative of WTC to sit on the Board and Councillor E Dinsdale agreed to give the Clerk a list of the stakeholders so that we could write to them. Councillor Rayson said that the MP should be copied into this.

vii. Councillor Carr said it was 19 years since he had worked at Sellafield but that everytime you go down you see it's always changing but is it really getting that bad that there's nothing new job wise happening. Are the new buildings on there creating jobs or is it getting to the point where people will not be transferred anywhere and there will be redundancies.

Councillor G Dinsdale said certain places do need more staff and were working with less staff than they need. At the moment some people were doing 2/3 people's jobs.

viii. Councillor Maudling thanked Councillor E Dinsdale for standing in for him when he was away. He also thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for the wonderful Jubilee weekend.

- ix. Councillor Maudling referred to Schoolhouse Lane and the hedge going across to the Westminster Café and said it was right on the pavement and that people were stepping out when there could be a car there and asked if anything could be done to cut the hedge back. The Assistant Clerk said there could be nesting birds in the hedge and the hedge would not be cut down during that time.
- x. Councillor Gill referred to the state of the roads in Hensingham and said he was working with County Councillor Mike Hawkins on this and that he was doing his best.
- xi. Councillor Hayes said that the 3 Councillors on Kells were going to have a chat with locals because there had been a lot of vandalism, graffiti etc and they were going to try and sort this out with the police
- xii. Councillor G Dinsdale said there had been a few highway issues but she had reported them.
- xiii. Councillor Rayson referred to the path from Inkerman Terrace to Tower Hill and said that although nobody had complained to her about this she had walked up it a couple of weeks ago and it was covered and you couldn't get up it. Councillor G Dinsdale said that this came under CCC and that she would put a report into them about it.

2047/22 Date Time and Place of next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 28th July 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

IN PRIVATE

2048/22 That prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following resolution: -

That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor Hayes proposed this and Councillor Maudling seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

2049/22 Grant Application - GCC

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in this item

The Council considered a Grant Application from GCC for a grant of £1,000.00. It was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to GCC. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to GCC

2050/22 **Grant Application - WTG**

The Council considered a Grant Application from WTG for a Grant of £1,000.00. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that a Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WTG. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 4 Councillors voted against

RESOLVED – That a Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WTG

2051/22 **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events**

The Council considered a report on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events organised by the Council which contained commercially sensitive information.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be approved and noted

2052/22 **Office Accommodation and Quotes**

The Council considered a report on the Office Accommodation and quotes that had been received for necessary works to the building which had been requested by the Architects. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that (i) the quote of £550.00 for the Refurbishment and Demolition Asbestos Survey be accepted and the work carried out and (ii) that the quote of £950.00 for the opening up/investigation work be accepted and the work carried out. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That (i) the quote of £550.00 for the Refurbishment and Demolition Asbestos Survey be accepted and the work carried out and (ii) that the quote of £950.00 for the opening up/investigation work be accepted and the work carried out.

2053/22 **Social Media Policy**

The Chairman raised an issue over certain comments made on social media that

he had received complaints about and a discussion on this followed during which it was stated that the only way to deal with it was to use the Code of Conduct and refer it to the Monitoring Officer.
There was no decision made on this as it was for information/discussion only.

Councillor Rayson apologised as she had to leave the meeting and did not return.

2054/22 Sand Sculpture for HarbourFest

The Clerk reported that the Council had been informed that a sand sculptor (RS) was available to attend the HarbourFest event on Saturday 2nd July 2022 at a cost of £400.00 and that the Harbour Commissioners were happy for him to attend. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale that the sand sculptor be booked for the HarbourFest event at a cost of £400.00. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the sand sculptor (RS) be booked for the HarbourFest event at a cost of £400.00.

2055/22 Cumbria in Bloom

The Clerk reported that CBC had entered the Cumbria in Bloom competition for Whitehaven including the Harbour and Hensingham.

This was an information item only and no decisions were made on this and comments made were noted.

The Meeting closed at 7.35pm


Chairman